

we were informed, makes this possible. The air is much less humid and its bracing qualities are soon apparent. A prolonged stay in the low lands during the summer time is very depressing, and we northerners greatly enjoyed the tonic qualities of the mountain air.

One cannot adequately convey the impressions received during a trip of this kind, only a personal visit will do this. The country is a strange one, almost unknown, is dominated by the negro, a condition not existing elsewhere in America, and botanically it is practically a virgin field. It was my first visit to the tropics, so not only was my interest constantly aroused by seeing in their perfection plants which we strive with much care to raise in our conservatories, but added to this was the excitement engendered by exploring a country rarely visited by white men. The inhabitants were generous in the extreme, and hospitable; child-like and simple we found the people of the mountains, as easily angered as a child, and as easily placated, and so with all the child's uncertainties.

SHORTER NOTES

TWO-BRACTED DOGWOOD. — The effect of the severe winter, just passed, on our native plants would prove an interesting study to one favorably located for its pursuit. The common dogwood, *Cornus florida* L., shows in a most striking manner that it did not escape unscathed. On all the trees examined by me, numbering about a dozen and growing in a variety of situations, nearly all the flower-clusters are subtended by but two normal opposite bracts, the outer pair remaining simply bud-scales or perhaps showing white for a quarter or a half of an inch. In numerous clusters all four bracts have remained undeveloped.

EDWARD W. BERRY.

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY, May, 1904.

Savia Bahamensis sp. nov. — A shrub about 2 m. high with ascending branches, similar to *S. erythroxyloides* Griseb. of Cuba. Leaves oblong-obovate, thick, obtuse and rounded at the apex, narrowed at the base, 6 cm. long or less, 1–3 cm. wide, dark green, shining and strongly reticulated above, pale green and in-

conspicuously reticulated beneath; petioles stout, about 5 mm. long, about as long as the dense clusters of staminate flowers: fruit glabrous, depressed-globose, slightly and obtusely 3-lobed, about 8 mm. in diameter.

Thickets, West Street Road, near Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, *Britton*, no. 84, April 8, 1904 (type); New Providence, *W. C. Coker*, nos. 157 and 160, June 24, 1903; Deep Creek, Andros, *Northrop*, no. 610, June, 1890.

Savia erythroxyloides has leaves nearly equally dark green, shining and reticulated on both sides. N. L. BRITTON.

NOTES ON CUBAN PLANTS. — Among the plants collected in Cuba by Dr. and Mrs. Britton and myself in March, 1903, or by me alone in April, are several introduced species that appear as weeds which, so far as I have been able to ascertain, have not heretofore been reported from the West Indies. Two of these are small composites, hailing from Mexico.

Calyptrocarpus vialis Less., a low creeping, apparently perennial plant, although described as an annual, was first observed on the grounds surrounding the historic shrine, Monserrate, at Matanzas. Here it was matted among the low grass on this prominent eminence, attaining its greatest perfection in the shade of the great spreading "laurel" (*Ficus religiosa* L.) but perfectly happy in the more sunny places. Later I found it at Havana, a common weed on vacant lots in the heart of the city, while at the beautiful "Parque Colon" laborers were engaged, on their haunches, pulling it out from among the Bermuda-grass lawns. It was again collected the following August by Britton and Wilson at Cumbre near Matanzas, also from the Isle of Pines in April, 1904, where Mr. A. H. Curtiss collected two small plants in "tobacco beds" at Nueva Gerona.

Dysodia porophylla Cav. A small marigold-like plant with orange-yellow flowers was also first observed near Monserrate, in the taller grass more remote from the shrine and again in the thin soil over the coral rock on the north coast west of Havana, at Bucna Vista. Britton and Wilson also collected it at Cumbre. In neither case was it abundant. It is probably of very recent introduction.

J. A. SHAFER.